

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application:

Michael Pontone, et al.

Serial No.: 10/626,417

Filed: July 23, 2003

Attorney Docket: 1046-010P

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

To assist the Examiner in the initial review of the above application, the applicant is submitting herewith prior art documents set forth in the attached Form PTO/SB/08A.

Respectfully submitted,

Fritz L. Schweitzer III
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,363

Customer No. 022831
Schweitzer Cornman Gross & Bondell LLP
292 Madison Avenue – 19th Floor
New York NY 10017
Tel: 646-424-0770
Fax: 646-424-0880

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Date: October 23, 2003

Gerri De Luca



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/626,417
Filing Date	July 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael Pontone
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1046-010P

Sheet 1 of 3

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 574,250	12-29-1896	Leonard et al.	
		US- 1,208,550	12-12-1916	Hand	
		US- 1,467,824	09-11-1923	Ahlers	
		US- 2,073,875	03-16-1937	Neff	
		US- 2,323,674	07-06-1943	Purkiss	
		US- 2,417,756	03-18-1947	Hillenbrand	
		US- 2,582,841	01-15-1952	McEwan	
		US- 2,587,355	02-26-1952	McEwan	
		US- 2,676,479	04-27-1954	Bethune	
		US- 2,691,543	10-12-1954	Morand	
		US- 2,753,613	07-10-1956	Baker, Jr.	
		US- 2,834,628	05-13-1958	Paparelli et al.	
		US- 2,845,294	07-28-1958	Peterson et al.	
		US- 3,201,165	08-17-1965	Trudeau	
		US- 3,474,648	10-28-1969	Trinca	
		US- 3,623,758	11-30-1971	Trinca	
		US- 4,012,883	03-22-1977	Muller	
		US- 4,697,316	10-06-1987	Semon	
		US- 4,706,437	11-17-1987	Boecker, Jr.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

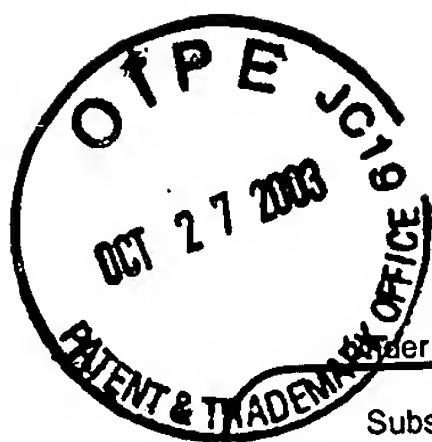
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 3

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/626,417
Filing Date	July 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael Pontone
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1046-010P

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,060,993	10-29-1991	Maier	
		US- 5,265,923	11-30-1993	Paddock	
		US- 5,457,861	10-17-1995	Lloyd	
		US- 5,503,439	04-02-1996	LaJeunesse et al.	
		US- 5,555,612	09-17-1996	Biondo	
		US- 5,611,124	03-18-1997	Biondo et al.	
		US- 5,727,291	03-17-1998	Biondo et al.	
		US- 5,729,921	03-24-1998	Rojas	
		US- 5,771,550	06-30-1998	Laphan et al.	
		US- 5,875,529	03-02-1999	Ollier	
		US- 5,675,876	10-14-1997	Benedict et al.	
		US- 5,974,640	11-02-1999	Vosahlik et al.	
		US- 6,116,663	09-12-2000	Robert	
		US- 6,152,499	11-28-2000	Robert	
		US- 6,238,327	05-29-2001	Tambussi	
		US- 6,279,212	08-28-2001	Balch	
		US- 6,324,737	12-04-2001	Chamness et al.	
		US- 6,385,824	05-14-2002	Schwartz	
		US- 6,414,663	07-02-2002	Manross, Jr.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND

TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Sheet	3	of	3
-------	---	----	---

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Distribution of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Number	10/626,417
Filing Date	July 23, 2003
First Named Inventor	Michael Pontone
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1046-010P

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.